



Meet the Teacher Meetings

Ian MacDonald (Headteacher)

Don't forget that next week we have our Meet the Teacher Meetings taking place:

Monday 14th September – Year 2 Parents/ Carers – 3:30pm – Miss Harris

Monday 14th September – Year 5 Parents/ Carers – 4:00pm – Miss Hastings

Tuesday 15th September – Year 6 Parents/ Carers – 3:30pm – Mrs Sinclair

Tuesday 15th September – Year 1 Parents/ Carers – 4:00pm – Miss Penwill

Wednesday 16th September – Year 3 Parents/ Carers – 3:30pm – Mrs Harmer & Miss Martin

Wednesday 16th September – Year 4 Parents/ Carers – 4:00pm – Mrs Chase

These meetings are a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher, hear about the year ahead and discuss how we can work together to support your child.

We very much hope you will be able to attend. The meetings are for **parents and carers only**, and **Mrs Bryant will be running a crèche for school-age children** during the meetings.

Curriculum Overview

I have attached to this newsletter a Curriculum Overview for the term for your child's year group. This will give you an understanding of the various things your child is learning during this term.

Online Safety Newsletter

I have attached to this week's Newsletter our Online Safety Newsletter for September. This month's edition has articles about AI-manipulated images and YouTube.

Please do take the time to read it as it does provide really useful information for you to help you keep your child safe online.

Our September video has the theme: **Back to School**.

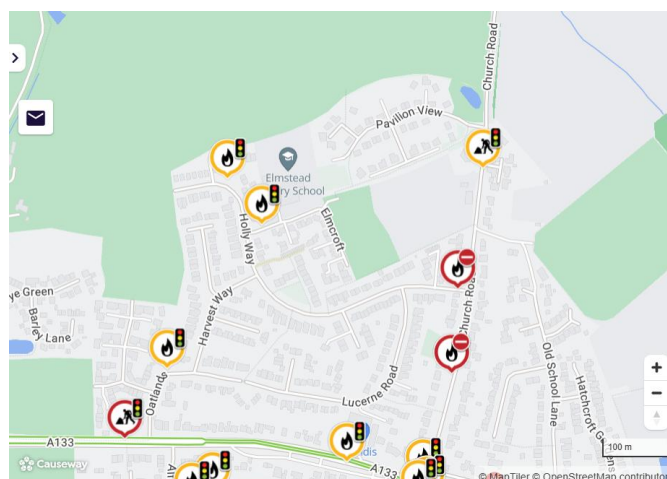
[Back to School](#)

Description: *This video provides a quick overview on establishing family tech rules and tips on how to use AI.*

Roadworks

We wanted to make you aware of some upcoming roadworks around the school site which will affect journeys to and from school.

Church Road is currently due to remain closed until 21st September. In addition, **Cadent Gas will be carrying out gas works along Holly Way from 14th September**, which will result in further disruption and traffic lights along this road. Please see the map below for details of the roads affected:



We would encourage all families to **allow extra time for the school journey so that children are not late for school**. Where possible, this could also be a great opportunity to **walk to school or park a little further away and walk the final part of your journey**. This will help to reduce congestion around the school gates and keep the area safer for everyone.

It also links perfectly with our participation in the **WOW Walk to School Challenge**, which encourages children and families to travel actively to school. Walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling where possible is a great way for children to start the day, while also helping to reduce traffic around our school. We appreciate that walking will not be possible for every family but any small change to the journey can make a difference. Thank you for your patience and cooperation while these works are taking place and please take extra care when travelling around the affected roads.



Year 6 Parents/ Carers – Secondary School Applications

From 12th September 2026, you can apply online for your child's secondary school (year 7) place for children starting secondary school in September 2027. Read about the [secondary \(year 7\)](#) school place application process. All applications received after 31st October 2026 will be treated as late and will only be processed after all on-time applications.

After-School Clubs Are Underway!

Our after-school clubs have started this week, and it has been wonderful to see the children getting involved, trying new activities and enjoying time with their friends beyond the school day.

One of the clubs getting off to a great start is Chess Club. The children have been busy learning all about the game, from recognising the different pieces and understanding how they move, to beginning to think carefully about tactics and their next move.

For some of our children, this has been their very first experience of playing chess, while others have been keen to share what they already know. It has been lovely to see everyone learning together, helping one another and growing in confidence as they play.

Chess is a fantastic way for children to develop concentration, patience, problem-solving and strategic thinking – all while having plenty of fun! We are looking forward to seeing their chess skills develop over the coming weeks and perhaps discovering some future chess champions along the way!



Reading Club

Reading Club got off to an exciting start this week and it was great to see the children's enthusiasm for books, reading and exploring the school library!

The children received their own reading passport, where they collect a sticker each week for taking part in the weekly reading club challenge. The first challenge was a library scavenger hunt with children searching the shelves for different books, characters and covers. There was a real buzz in the library as the children explored the shelves, shared their favourites and discovered new books. Next week, Reading Club will be getting creative by designing and making bookmarks!



E-Scooters

Essex Police has asked us to share with parents/ carers the attached information regarding the use of e-scooters by children.



School Dinner Menus

Next week, we will be on Week 1 of our Menus. The menus can be seen on the School Website at: <https://www.elmsteadprimary.com/Dinner-Menus/>.

School dinners can be paid for electronically on Arbor.

Diary Dates

Academic Year 2026/ 2027

Autumn Term 2026

Meet the Teacher Meeting Dates:

Monday 14th September

Monday 14th September

Tuesday 15th September

Tuesday 15th September

Wednesday 16th September

Wednesday 16th September

Tuesday 20th October

Thursday 22nd October

Monday 26th October

Thursday 5th November

Friday 27th November

Monday 30th November

Monday 14th December

Tuesday 15th December

Friday 18th December

Year 2 Parents/ Carers – 3:30pm

Year 5 Parents/ Carers – 4:00pm

Year 6 Parents/ Carers – 3:30pm

Year 1 Parents/ Carers – 4:00pm

Year 3 Parents/ Carers – 3:30pm

Year 4 Parents/ Carers – 4:00pm

Parents' Evening – 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Parents' Evening – 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Half term holiday week

Year 3 Layer Marney Trip

Non-Pupil Day

Non-Pupil Day

pm – KS2 Carol Service

Whole School Trip to 'The Wizard of Oz Musical'

Last day of term



Forest School Dates for this term:

Forest School – Autumn Term 1

Week 1 8 th September	Week 2 15 th September	Week 3 22 nd September	Week 4 29 th September	Week 5 6 th October	Week 6 13 th October	Week 7 20 th October
Year 6	Year 6	Year 5	Year 5	Year 4	Year 4	Year 3

Forest School – Autumn Term 2

Week 8 3 rd November	Week 9 10 th November	Week 10 17 th November	Week 11 24 th November	Week 12 1 st December	Week 13 8 th December	Week 14
Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	EYFS	Pantomime

Your child's teacher will tell you which of the two groups your child is in (Group 1 or Group 2) so you know which session your child will be taking part in and when to bring in their Forest School clothes.